

cate abscess formations, can appear quite frequently in the course of middle ear suppurations.

In Meningitis Serosa, a certain diagnosis is not yet possible; lumbar puncture is to a certain degree helpful. Removal of the focus of disease in the middle ear and exposure of the diseased portion of the brain usually suffices.

In Meningitis Purulenta, the prognosis, as with the serous form, is no longer absolutely bad; the middle ear is to be operated upon as early as possible. Circumscribed purulent meningitis is curable. As a rule, to which there are no exceptions, we will not go wrong, if we find by lumbar puncture a purulent liquor containing bacteria, to conclude that we have to do with a leptomeningitis purulenta. Heine holds diffuse purulent meningitis to be incurable. From a clinical point of view, it is not possible to differentiate the circumscribed from the diffuse form.

Operation consists in eliminating the infective focus in the bone and exposing the dura, so far as it appears to be unhealthy; in the serious form, we can incise the dura; and finally, we can use lumbar puncture to withdraw a portion of the purulent fluid.

Lumbar Puncture: In otitis with intracranial complications this is not certainly free from danger; *e.g.*, the withdrawal of the liquid may lead to the rupture of an abscess into the ventricle. If from the clinical picture we believe the diagnosis of purulent meningitis justifiable, then we do a lumbar puncture; if the liquid is distinctly purulent and contains bacteria, we do not operate, even if it contains bacteria, or is a purulent liquor without bacteria.

HENRY A. ALDERTON.

NIERENCHIRURGIE. Ein Handbuch für Praktiker von PROF. DR. C. GARRÉ, Geh. Med.-Rath. Direktor der Chirurg. Klinik der Universität Breslau; und DR. O. EHRLHARDT, Privatdocent für Chirurgie an der Universität Königsberg i. Pr. Mit 90 Abbildungen im Text. Berlin, 1907. Verlag von S. Karger, Karlstrasse 15.

Together with Küster's contribution on Renal Surgery in "Deutsche Chirurgie, and Israel's Monograph of Surgical Kidney Diseases, the "Nierenchirurgie" of Garré & Erhardt, under consideration constitutes a triad of the German conception of surgical affections of the kidney. Very different from its fore-runners, we note in this latest book a very liberal acknowledg-

ment of the contributions of American authors to this specialty of surgery.

The subject matter is covered in nineteen chapters, excellently illustrated. It is an eminently practical treatise, strikingly void of theories and imbued with healthy, not ultra, conservatism. The opening chapters are devoted to anatomical and physiological considerations followed by remarks on the general principles of operative technique of the kidney and anomalous conditions of the organ. For the treatment of Floating Kidney, the teaching is commendably conservative. Operation is advised when repeated colics are judged to be due to bends and tension of the ureter, if there be a complicating tuberculosis, or hydronephrosis, and when orthopædic measures fail. Hysteria is an absolute contraindication. Guided by these criteria, Garré says the operations are not likely to be listed in the hundreds. The mortality of subcutaneous rupture of the kidney is placed at 47 per cent., therefore the more surprising is the very conservative attitude that operation is to be reserved for severe injuries even though the greater danger of an ascending infection is acknowledged.

In Hydronephrosis, the authors limit nephrectomy to instances of obliterated ureter, where a fistula of the renal pelvis becomes persistent and when suppuration supervenes.

The definitions of Pyelo-Nephritis, Pyelitis, and Pyonephrosis are clearly and sharply drawn. It is shown that these conditions pass into each other and often exist side by side. Lavage with urethral catheter for any other than simple Pyelitis is disparagingly spoken of, for greater infection may supervene and, to be effective, the procedure must be repeated, but this induces nervous exhaustion.

In the chapter detailing the causes of Anuria and Oliguria, the authors prove to be believers in reflex anuria and reno-renal reflex. The latter though can only be established beyond doubt if cystoscopy has been practiced on the remaining kidney.

Essential hematuria is denied and the ability of Edebohls to judge the presence of nephritis by palpation is called to account. Neither is the palpation nor the inspection, nor the microscopic examination of a small piece of kidney sufficient to explain the hematuria. These obscure renal hematurias form the basis of the modern therapy of decapsulation. Nephrotomy is the operation of choice with a section of a thin slice of the parenchyma. Garré,

as the result of personal experience, sees little encouragement in decapsulation for nephritis. The exclusive descending (hæmatogenous) origin of the tuberculous is not conceded. Authors are advocates of early nephrectomy and while admitting the advantages accruing from climatic change and better hygiene, spontaneous cure is denied except that rarely the ureter becomes obliterated. Tuberculin is well spoken of early in the disease and for slight diseased conditions; statistic for renal tuberculosis do not take cognizance of the latest figures of Albarran, Casper and Brown. Ureteral catheterization of the diseased kidney alone is sanctioned, wherefore the use of the "Luy's Separateur" is warmly commended. Again in the diagnosis of nephrolithiasis not much importance is attached to cystoscopy, the X-ray is supreme, and the authors claim a positive finding for all stones if a compression diaphragm is used. Somewhat contradictory is the advice to adhere to Israel's indication to operate for stone only if vital indications prevail and if symptomatic phenomena persist and yet further on the operation is recommended for every stone demonstrable by X-rays. This change of face is based on the very low mortality associated with the operation.

Tumors of the kidney are treated of as those of the parenchyma, the pelvis and the capsule. The comparative frequency in the variety of tumors is not brought out. Common to all tumors is the involvement of the vessels which makes for metastases and dangerous ligation of the vessels with displacement of the thrombus.

In chapter XVII Cystic Tumors, Adenocystomas, Echinococcus Cysts, Aneurysms and Pararenal Cysts are discussed.

The concluding chapter deals with injuries and diseases of the ureter.

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THE PRACTICE OF PÆDIATRICS, in Original Contributions by American and English Authors. Edited by WALTER LESTER CARR, A.M., M.D., of New York. Illustrated with 199 engravings and 32 full-page plates. Lea Brothers & Co., Philadelphia and New York, 1906.

The volume treating of the practice of Pediatrics, under the editorship of Dr. Carr, of New York, is one of a series of treatises published under the title "The Practitioner's Library." Although there are many books of recent issue treating of the